



**NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
PORTION OF FORMER HOLLINGSWORTH SACO LOWELL PLANT SITE,
US Highway 123 and SC Highway 189, Easley, South Carolina.**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announces a 30-day period for citizens to comment on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract for a portion of the Former Hollingsworth Saco Lowell Plant Site. The contract, **VCC-07-4863-NRP** will be between Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, and DHEC. The contract will allow Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, to purchase the property as a Brownfields site, which may have environmental pollution resulting from past practices. Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, did not create the pollution, but wishes to buy the property and voluntarily clean it up for reuse. If this contract is implemented, DHEC will not hold Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, liable under State Superfund laws for pre-existing contamination in exchange for performing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Program. If contamination has spread off of the property, State law will not allow affected parties to file suit against Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, for the past operations; however, legal action may be pursued against any former owners or operators.

The Brownfields site being purchased by Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, consists of approximately 122.25 acres near the intersection of US Highway 123 and SC Highway 189. The property is a portion of the former Hollingsworth Saco Lowell plant, which manufactured textile machinery from 1957 until 2000. During the process, unknown quantities of solvents, metals and other chemical wastes were released. The responsible parties working under DHEC's oversight are conducting environmental testing and contamination cleanup of the plant property. Testing shows the portion of the plant property being purchased by Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, has low levels of contaminants that will not interfere with future use.

Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, intends to demolish the existing plant building and construct retail and mixed-use commercial space. Due to the previous environmental pollution at the site, Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, wishes to enter into a contract under DHEC's Voluntary Cleanup Program. In order to qualify for the proposed contract, Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, has conducted extensive testing samples of soil, sediment, groundwater, and surface water. Easley Commons Retail Associates, LLC, will be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment during the development and operation of the property. The proposed contract is available at <http://www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/public.asp>. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

DHEC promotes redevelopment and revitalization of Brownfields sites across the state so that these properties do not become abandoned or unusable. Public comments on proposed Brownfields contracts assist DHEC in balancing the environmental and redevelopment issues to be in the best interest of the state. Any comments or questions may be directed to Joe Bowers, Project Manager, email bowersjb@dhec.sc.gov telephone (803) 896- 4024, or Craig Dukes, Brownfields Public Information Coordinator, SCDHEC – Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201; email dukescv@dhec.sc.gov, TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432.

Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the portion of the Former Hollingsworth Saco Lowell Plant Site proposed contract until February 23, 2007.